

Remarks/Arguments

Pending in the application as amended in response to the Office Action identified as Paper No. 10 and dated 27 December 2003 are claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-14.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has quoted 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. In paragraph 2, the Examiner has stated that claim 7 is rejected under the aforementioned section.

In particular, claim 7 is said to contain subject matter already provided in claim 6. Applicants understand this rejection to suggest that claim 7 is a duplicate of claim 6.

However, it is believed that a rejection of claim 7 is misplaced since claim 7 had been canceled in the "First Amendment"; thus, it is kindly requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has quoted 35 USC § 102(b). The Examiner has applied the statute in stating that claims 1 and 4-5 are anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,543,773 to Reilly. The Examiner has further stated that claims 1-8 and 11-12 by Japanese publication 01010913A (Terutaka et al.).

As to each of rejections under Reilly and Terutaka et al., Applicants note that only claims 1, 4, 6 and 8-12 were pending upon submission of the most recent or First Amendment. As such, all statements made in regard to Reilly and Terutaka et al. are considered to have been applied only to the aforementioned claims.

As amended, Applicants have provided for a baffle having "segments" which are arranged, as discussed in the remainder of the specification to provide for the advantages associated therewith. Reilly and Terutaka et al. do not provide for such segments. Therefore, it is kindly requested that the rejection(s) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 9-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is further indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have re-presented claims 9-10 as independent claims 13-14. Further, Applicants take this opportunity to express an appreciation for the indication of allowability.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the combinations as provided in the claims, as they are now submitted, are in condition for allowance; accordingly, such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees due as a result of filing of this Paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,


Brian H. Buck

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 308-8623) on 27 June 2003.


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